

# Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

To the House Fish & Game Committee:

**RE: HB-376** Revise laws related to wildlife management

**POSITION:** Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **OPPOSING** this bill based on the following reasons:

- Local Governments do not have the education, experience, nor dedicated funds necessary to collect data and make scientific decisions on state wildlife issues.
- In Montana it has been long established that wildlife are both an asset and a liability to property owners.
- Sportsmen, landowners, general public and local and other state and federal governments are already involved with input into wildlife management decisions.
- Decisions regarding wildlife policy have and should continue to be made by the FWP Commission and recommendations based on scientifically collected data should be made by wildlife professionals.
- The presence of wildlife provides substantial economic benefits to local communities and should be enhanced not diminished.
- We are adamantly opposed to County based wildlife management. It will have a negative impact on our wildlife, public hunting opportunities and violates the public Trust Doctrine and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.
- This bill violates the doctrine that wildlife belong to all the people of the State and that the State is the trustee for the people of the State.

Once again we would like to state our **OPPOSITION** for HB 376.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership group

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